



SECOND  
QUARTER  
2018



Administration



Aquatics



Finance



Fire Dept



Hazard Mitigation



Parking



Planning



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Public Services

# CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS NEWSLETTER

## The mayor's office

It's hard to believe that I was sworn in as mayor a little more than six months ago. To say the least, it's been an eye-opening experience.

If you follow city affairs, you've no doubt noticed that from Day 1 we've taken on major issues and challenges. We've also been fortunate to take advantage of some unique opportunities. I've looked to share as much information and be as forthcoming as possible, mainly through social media, news outlets and public forums regarding the challenges we face and how we're addressing them.

I'm often reminded that, with virtually every issue, we must balance the need and urgency with available resources. At the same time, it's been gratifying to know that members of the community have stepped up to offer their skills and expertise in every instance.

Manitou Springs is a vibrant and extraordinary community. Our residents are diverse culturally and our businesses are attractive to residents and tourists alike.

We care deeply about protecting the environment, preserving our history and culture, and showcasing our artistic talents. And we're not afraid

to become involved. In fact, it has become a hallmark of our community. For that I am exceedingly proud.

So, how can we make the process work even better? Earlier this year, we formed a working group, which has been developing a framework for community engagement that is Manitou-specific.

Our goals are to ensure that people are heard, respected and valued, and to create a process that is consistent and inclusive. That does not mean your alternative will always be selected, but you should know that it was heard.

Several weeks ago, City Council adopted the framework to help guide and foster a robust and satisfying public process. You can find the resolution and the framework on our city website ([www.manitouspringsgov.com](http://www.manitouspringsgov.com)), click on the Council Meetings link (under the Popular Links on the right side), scroll down and select the June 26 council meeting. Within that window, you'll see a link to click on and view the several pages' worth of information.

We've already begun to address several of Manitou's problems using the framework as a guide. First, it will be used to address pedestrian and

vehicle traffic on Crystal Park Road.

A second opportunity will be with the Hiawatha Gardens redevelopment project. A small planning group has started to meet to work through the approved 10-step planning and engagement process. Additional information will be published as soon as it's available.

A separate group involving the community and city staff is working on a new online platform/website designed by CivicPlus, a company that specializes in government websites. It has a lot of functions we will use to improve transparency and

exciting new interactive technologies that are user-friendly.

I expect this to be rolled out by the end of this year. This will not be at the expense of the traditional forms of communication, which have worked so well for our community. As we roll out new initiatives, we welcome your input and feedback.

For more information: Meghan Weiss, public engagement and event coordinator ([mweiss@comsgov.com](mailto:mweiss@comsgov.com) or 685-2601) or me directly ([kjaray@comsgov.com](mailto:kjaray@comsgov.com) or 505-4690).

## City Administrator

By Malcolm Fleming, interim city administrator

Manitou Springs is a small city in which a lot happens!

City staffers are working hard to effectively address multiple issues that include ensuring public safety, maintaining the city's infrastructure (including streets, bridges and parking lots; water, sewer and storm water systems; trails, parks and open spaces; and city buildings and equipment), protecting the environment, providing recreational opportunities, preserving historic assets, promoting orderly development and a strong economy, and providing all the technical and

administrative support for all of those functions.

In addition to working continuously on organizational culture and responsiveness, the city administrator has several key responsibilities, including:

- **Supporting City Council.** The administrator works closely with the mayor and all Council members to understand their diverse priorities, ensure they have the

information they need to make informed policy decisions, help

facilitate decisions even when there may be, at times, polar-opposite perspectives on the best path forward, and then ensuring those decisions are implemented effectively.

- **Connecting with the community.** The administrator must reach out, and encourage staff to reach out, to residents,

businesses, individuals and groups with specific concerns, interests and passions so "the city" can really understand their interests and concerns, staff can respond effectively and constituents can better understand and appreciate what staffers are doing to support those interests and resolve their concerns.

- **Leading the management team.** The city has a highly skilled team of department directors and staff who work together and engage with Council and the community. The administrator must work continually to help each team member improve

See ADMINISTRATOR/page 5

# City Clerk/Human Resources Department



By Donna Kast, city clerk/HR director

Have you ever wondered about the process your local government takes to enact legislation and how you, as a private citizen, might contribute to that process?

When a municipality wants to enact legislation, an ordinance is required. In most cases, the ordinance is prepared by legal counsel, reviewed by the city administrator and forwarded to the clerk's department for processing.

The Manitou Springs City Charter outlines what happens next:

1. The ordinance is introduced at a regular or special meeting of City Council. Before being introduced, the city clerk's department provides notice to the public via the meeting agenda and packet. Both are published by 5 p.m. Fridays and can be viewed on the city's website: [www.manitouspringsgov.com/government/council/council-meetings](http://www.manitouspringsgov.com/government/council/council-meetings). In addition, the meeting agenda is posted in the window at the front of City Hall.

2. At the City Council meeting, the ordinance is either read aloud in its entirety or written copies are made available to all attendees. This is called "first reading" of the ordinance.

3. After discussion at the first reading, City Council votes on whether to reject the ordinance, approve it as presented or approve it with revisions. If approved, City Council sets a date when they will hold a hearing to gather public input. The clerk's department records the minutes of the meeting, noting the vote, and ensures that the revisions and public hearing date are incorporated into the document. It is then published a second time in its entirety on the city's website at [www.manitouspringsgov.com/government/notice](http://www.manitouspringsgov.com/government/notice), and in summary in the Pikes Peak Bulletin. Hard copies can be obtained from the clerk's department in City Hall.

4. The public hearing is held no earlier than seven days after publication to allow the community time to review the proposed legislation. Then, at the hearing, public feedback is received, revisions are considered and City Council votes a second time on whether to approve final passage. This is called

"second reading" of the ordinance. If approved at second reading, the clerk's department again makes any specified changes and publishes the final document on the city's website and in the newspaper.

5. The clerk presents the final document to the mayor for signature, attests the document and ensures its codification. Once codified, the law can be viewed on the

city's website at [library.municode.com/co/manitou\\_springs/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](http://library.municode.com/co/manitou_springs/codes/code_of_ordinances).

Members of the public are welcome, and encouraged, to participate in the passage of laws that govern their community. City Council's regular meetings are held at 6 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month; special meetings are held when called by the mayor or a majority of City Council.

For a complete listing of all upcoming meetings, visit the city's event calendar at [www.manitou-springsgov.com](http://www.manitou-springsgov.com).

“Members of the public are welcome, and encouraged, to participate in the passage of laws that govern their community.”

## SP+ Parking

By Sherri Johnson, facilities manager

The city of Manitou Springs and SP+ collaborated to roll out a new program to put parking management coordinators in the city's public parking lots. The PMC program began June 8 and will continue throughout the summer, including Labor Day weekend.

The program began as an effort to reduce traffic congestion and visitor frustration related to finding available parking. The PMCs assist visitors and monitor each parking lot's capacity from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

PMCs communicate with each other via two-way radio to help direct visitors to available parking. PMCs also hand out maps and brochures,

and answer questions.

The Top 5 questions have been:

1. How much is parking?
2. Where are the Cave Dwellings?
3. How do we get up Pikes Peak?
4. Questions related to the free shuttles.
5. What is the closest parking to the Incline?

PMCs also are collecting important data about the parking lots for SP+ and the city.

PMCs are easy to spot — they all wear beautifully tie-dyed T-shirts purchased from Manitou Springs' very own Flying Eagle, along with high-visibility vests.

PMCs are making a difference for visitors and residents alike. I'd like to call this program a success — one I hope will continue in future summer seasons!



Courtesy image

Parking management coordinators are hard to miss with their brightly colored shirts and vests.

## ADMINISTRATOR/from page 4

and to support the work they do.

- **Developing an effective organization.** A healthy organization is critical for high performance. The city administrator must work to promote an organizational culture that values and promotes public involvement, communicates effectively, takes reasonable risks, accepts responsibility for problems, focuses on priorities, enjoys striving to meet high expectations and gets the job done.

- **Ensuring fiscal capacity.** It has been said that, "Vision without budget is hallucination." The city administrator, with the finance director and other staff, proposes an annual budget for Council

consideration and then ensures adherence to the adopted budget. The administrator also must monitor numerous indicators and explore various ways — including both enhancing revenue and controlling costs — to ensure the city has the financial capacity to sustain the current level of service and provide options Council may employ to stretch what the city can deliver.

- **Encouraging exploration.** To promote the quality of life in Manitou Springs, the city administrator must promote visionary (yet realistic) thinking about how to make the city even better than it already is, while at the same time preserving the wonderful things we all love about this unique

community.

It has been an honor to serve you as interim city administrator for the past five months. I look forward to extending my stay and service here until late August, and I encourage you to welcome Joe Kerby, who will move here and, on Aug. 27, start as Manitou Springs' next city administrator.

Joe is experienced and highly skilled in all aspects of the work I highlighted above, and I am sure Manitou Springs will flourish with his leadership. I look forward to visiting in the future and seeing all the great things the mayor, City Council, city staff, residents and business leaders have made happen in this wonderful city!

# Public Services Department



By Shelley Cobau, director

Public Services staff and seasonal employees endeavor to maintain the city's parks, streets, mineral springs, and other critical infrastructure such as the city's water distribution and treatment system, and the wastewater conveyance system.

The first half of 2018 has been extremely busy; we have completed the Flood Control Master Plan, a Department of Local Affairs-funded engineering report that identifies stormdrain conveyance system needs city-wide. This will help us with capital improvement planning through completion of a 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) specific to stormwater.

DOLA staff will use this report as an example of a successful project when they meet with upper-level Housing and Urban Development department leaders who will visit Colorado in August. If you're interested, the report is available on the city's website; the final document will be presented to Council in mid-August.

We are working to complete the Wastewater Master Plan by the end of 2018, when we will have a complete picture of the city's infrastructure needs. City staff will update the street improvement CIP so we can replace underground infrastructure before we pave streets, better serving the public through fiscal management.

We completed several large capital projects (either city-funded or with regional partners) including the Brook Street bridge, Elkhorn Road,

the Ruxton shuttle stop, numerous walls at the cemetery and library, and park improvements such as the Schryver parking lot, Wheeler Park survey. Most recently, staff is working on the east end of Soda Springs Park.

We are overseeing restoration of masonry work on several bridges to ensure that, through active maintenance and repairs, we preserve these local treasures. Public Services staff also worked on issuing proposal and bid requests for 2019 paving work, because we completed 2018 one year early (per streets identified in the city's Street Improvement Capital Improvement Plan).

This year, we will replace water and sewer lines before we pave in areas where waterlines are old or undersized and the sewer requires lining or replacement.

We are excited to participate with neighbors in the Crystal Park Road improvements using the Councils' recently adopted culture of engagement

process and we are working with the Urban Renewal Authority to get improvements designed for the Becker's Lane bridge.

The Colorado Department of Transportation is an important partner to our city as we prepare to issue the request for qualifications on Manitou Avenue 5c, the next phase of Manitou Avenue street beautification from Tubby's Turnaround to the Serpentine roundabout.

We are coordinating improvements on the Hiawatha Gardens Transit site, including a partnership with Mountain Metro to complete a

“  
**Members of the Hazard Mitigation & Resiliency Team have merged with the Public Services Department.**

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Courtesy image

City workers repair a water main leak on Manitou Avenue in June.

new shuttle stop on the east side of Old Man's Trail, and are helping with site and structure cleanup.

Routine operations such as street maintenance, water and sewer system maintenance, park maintenance and facility and mineral springs maintenance, continue with a full staff and four seasonal workers. We recently hired a seasonal reservoir caretaker and a seasonal arborist to better serve the public.

Public Services also addresses emergencies such as water line leaks and sewer backups, storm events that require snow removal or debris removal, and issues like the Church Street bridge — which is still partially closed as we repair damaged

infrastructure that contributed to its closure in early 2018.

Most recently, members of the Hazard Mitigation & Resiliency Team have merged with the Public Services Department to become one team, and we are striving to help them with the numerous recovery projects they're managing.

We will continue to work hard for Manitou Springs residents and encourage you to contact us if you see potholes, signs missing, tree branches needing trimming or any maintenance type work you see that you think needs our attention.

*Editor's note: see information on how to submit a public service request on page 7.*

## Hazard Mitigation & Resiliency



By Travis Brown, project manager

The Hazard Mitigation & Resiliency team is comprised of two project managers, one construction observer and one grants administrator. All positions are grant-funded through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs and the Colorado Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

The Hazard Mitigation & Resiliency team implements and manages numerous federally and city-funded recovery and resiliency projects, helping the city of Manitou Springs become a more sustainable and resilient community.

In the past six months, the Hazard Mitigation &

Resiliency Team has overseen the completion of the construction phase of the Raw Water Pipeline Project, the replacement of the city's 120-year-old raw water pipeline. Due to the short timeline and difficult terrain, the project team had to work through the winter to ensure the project schedule was met.

City staff worked closely with Colorado Springs Utilities, as the property owner for most of the project reach, and El Paso County, which maintains Ute Trail. The latter was closed throughout the project due to safety concerns.

Construction will soon begin on the El Monte Avenue Drainage Improvement Project and the Manitou Terrace Demolition and Slope Stabilization

Project. El Monte was funded by Housing and Urban Development through the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Program.

In March 2016, the city was asked to participate in the Veterans Local Government Management Fellowship Program. This program, a partnership between the Department of Defense and Colorado local governments, aims to help service members transition to civilian careers. The program has grown significantly in the two years, and is becoming a nationwide program with participation in states such as Kansas and Texas.

See HAZARD MITIGATION/page 7

**HAZARD MITIGATION/from page 6**

We are proud to say that, in 2018, the city of Manitou Springs hosted two fellows from the Veterans Local Government Management Fellowship program, and one has found full-time employment with a local government agency after completing the program.

Two of our staff members, Kenny Morris and Travis Brown, have been busy planning and managing clean-up events throughout the city. The first event, the April 21 Great American Cleanup, saw 20 volunteers clean Fountain Creek as well as parks, trails and open spaces.

The second event, the June 23 Fountain Creek Clean-up, had five

motivated volunteers clean around the creek from the Aquatics Center to Rainbow Falls. They look forward to continuing this practice for Creek Week in the fall.

We will work closely with Public Works on upcoming requests for proposals and project closeouts.

Lastly, the Hazard Mitigation & Resiliency Department is committed to community

outreach. Although we are transitioning from the recovery process to a resiliency/sustainability path, we understand that this process has been difficult for everyone (residents, business owners, tourists and staff) and we want to make ourselves



**The Hazard Mitigation & Resiliency Department is committed to community outreach.**



Bulletin file photo

Travis Brown, left, and Kenny Morris study maps of Manitou Springs parks during the Great American Clean-up on April 21.

available to help you understand the processes.

Because we value your input and expertise and want to include all residents in the recovery and resiliency process, we will continue to hold project specific-meetings and Town Hall meetings to gather input and to keep you apprised of progress

on recovery and resiliency efforts.

The public is also encouraged to attend City Council meetings, as updates are provided in the Hazard Mitigation & Resiliency Department's monthly report. We are committed to working with the community to continue on a path toward a resilient and sustainable Manitou Springs!

**Code Enforcement**



By Cy Cushenberry, code enforcement officer

Rather than a lengthy article, I thought our visitors and citizens would appreciate seeing a snapshot of the city's Code Enforcement cases — both ongoing/current open cases as well as the cases closed (completed) the first six months of this year.

Currently, we have 54 open code enforcement cases with approximately 20 new cases opened weekly. Approximately 385 cases have been satisfactorily closed since the beginning of 2018.

These cases cover all kinds of issues, ranging from junk and debris to vehicle complaints, from overgrown vegetation to illegal signs.

A fun fact: Our neighbor, Colorado Springs, handles approximately 100 code cases per week with about 10 code enforcement officers.

I wanted to take the time to alert you of a way to submit code enforcement issues or public services requests. Visit the city website, [www.manitouspringsgov.com](http://www.manitouspringsgov.com), to submit the information directly to our work order system. In the top right corner, click on I Want To ... A menu pops up, and you can click on



**Approximately 385 cases have been satisfactorily closed since the beginning of 2018.**



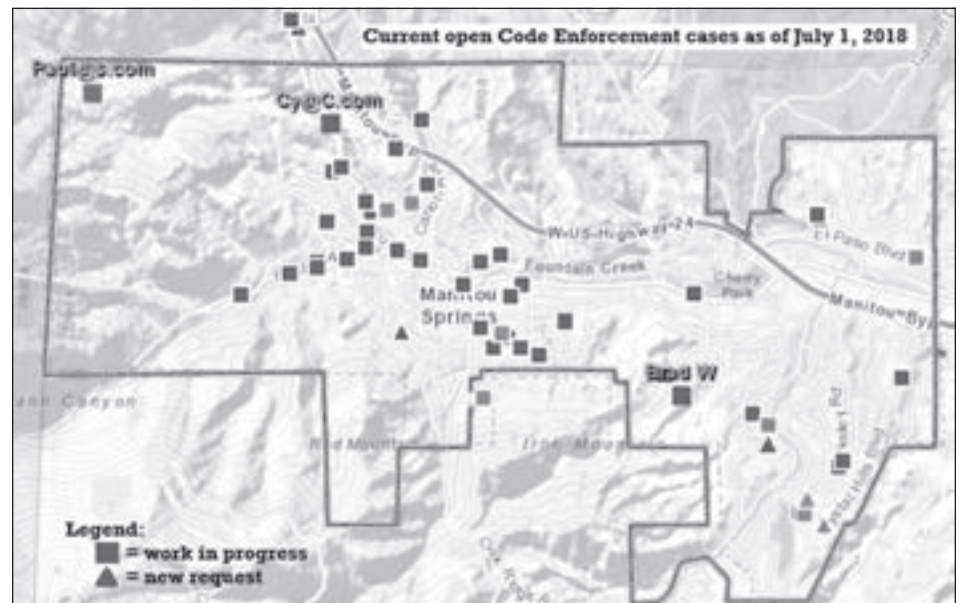
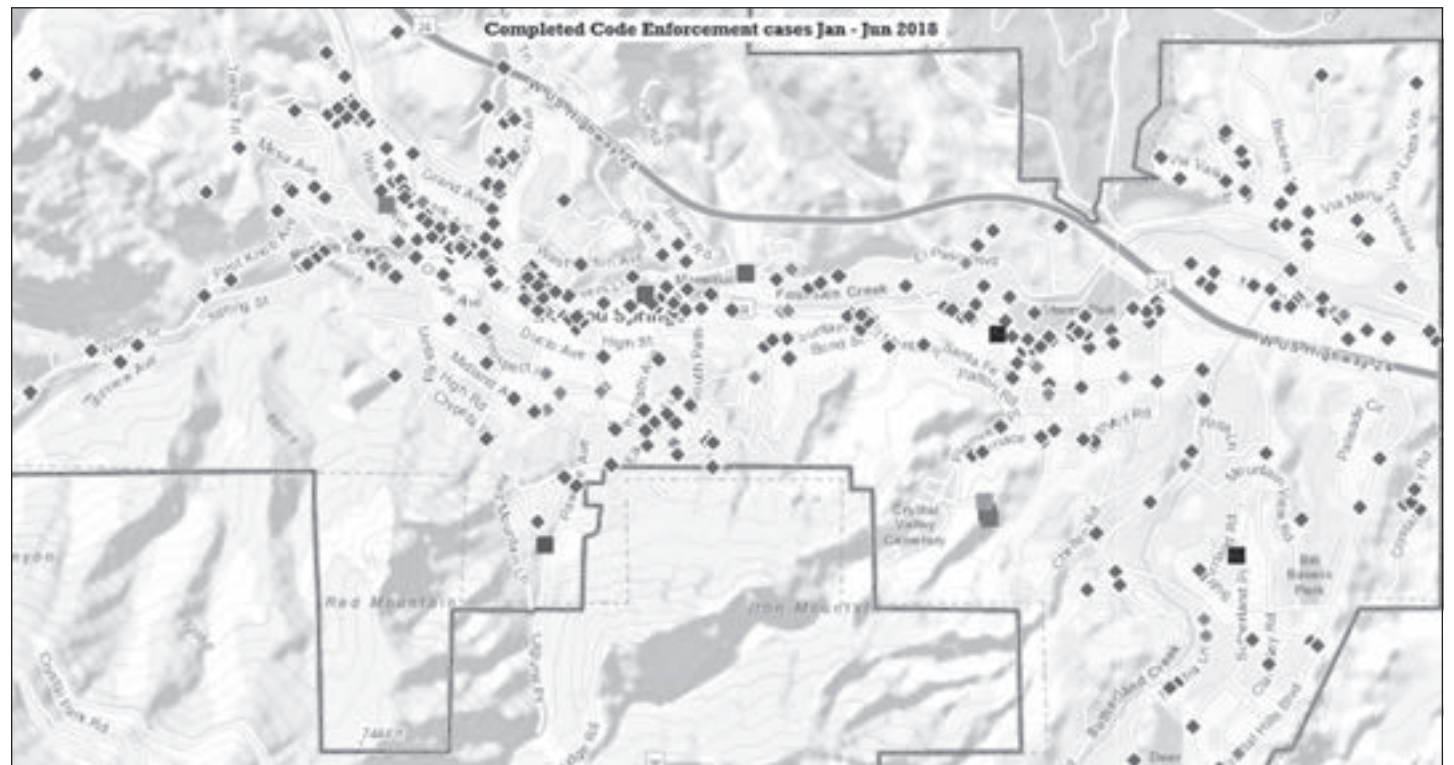
Report. Follow the instructions on that page.

The Citizen Portal for our work system is pretty user friendly.

It even gives you the option to submit anonymously or create an account allowing you to track the work order's status.

For any future needs, you

can save this link on your desktop or mobile device.



Courtesy images

These maps show what Code Enforcement accomplished in the first half of 2018 and what the department is working on now.

# Planning Department



By Barb Cole, interim planning co-director; Karen Berchtold, senior planner; and Dylan Becker, planner

Many people believe that Manitou Springs needs more housing options, especially housing options for the workforce and those who wish to age in place. Many also strongly believe that we need to minimize hazards, especially in residential neighborhoods.

The community's experience with repeated flooding and the Waldo Canyon wildfire, which came close to impacting the entire city, led citizens to believe that the community should ensure that our neighborhoods and people are safe.

"Manitouans" pride themselves in being resilient, but most support actions to ensure that people and buildings are as safe as possible from natural hazards.

Residents and staff members have asked, "What are the best approaches for meeting our housing needs while reducing vulnerability to natural hazards?"

A number of citizen boards, with support from the Planning Department, are looking at both issues. The city's Housing Advisory Board is developing a plan and strategies to meet our housing needs; members also are considering approaches such as accessory dwelling units and incentives to encourage affordable housing.

Through the Planning for Hazards project, the city is considering a more comprehensive approach to evaluate and mitigate flooding, geologic hazards and wildfire risk for new development. How can we reduce the impact of hazards and not discourage new housing and reinvestment?

Flood, fire and geologic hazard risks are considered for large developments but smaller developments also impact the owner or neighbors. Regional Building, the Fire Department and the Planning Department review some hazards, but not all.

Do Manitou citizens want to encourage more accessory dwelling units? What should be done to mitigate impacts on neighboring properties? Should the city review new attainable housing with an eye toward reducing hazards?

- **Flooding:** Should the Planning Commission and City Council consider land-use policies and standards to guide development away from floodplain areas or above the flood elevation on a property?

- **Geologic hazards:** Is it the city's role to inform property owners about geologic hazard risks from rock fall, debris flow (worsened by flooding) and erosion? Should geologic hazards be mitigated through better site planning, drainage controls and building construction?

- **Wildfire:** Educational material to encourage and empower residents



Courtesy photo

This building could be damaged from a slope that was not properly retained.

to take steps to mitigate their wildfire risk is available for people who own or rent in Manitou Springs. The Fire Department's Community Wildfire Protection Plan evaluates wildfire susceptibility at the neighborhood level. Should the Fire Department address wildfire risk in its review of building applications?

The Planning Department is asking residents if you favor accessory dwelling units, new housing on the same property. If so, where and for whom? Do you feel that is it the property owner's responsibility to

build new dwelling units that do not impact the neighbors? Do you think the city has a role to ensure new development mitigates hazards to the greatest extent possible — especially those that impact your neighborhood?

We want to hear from you. Please send your answers to the above questions to the Planning Department: [planningdept@comsgov.com](mailto:planningdept@comsgov.com). If you have other thoughts or questions about the tradeoffs between attainable housing and hazard mitigation, please feel free to email the Planning Department.

# Finance Department



By Rebecca Davis, finance director

The Finance Department continues to provide accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, utility billing, financial management, business licensing and tax administration services for the city.

Sales tax for 2018 is performing well and is 3 percent better than this time last year. The state collects sales tax and receives it two months after the month the sales tax was collected. This means the city has just received May's sales tax.

In answer to a recent inquiry concerning commercial versus

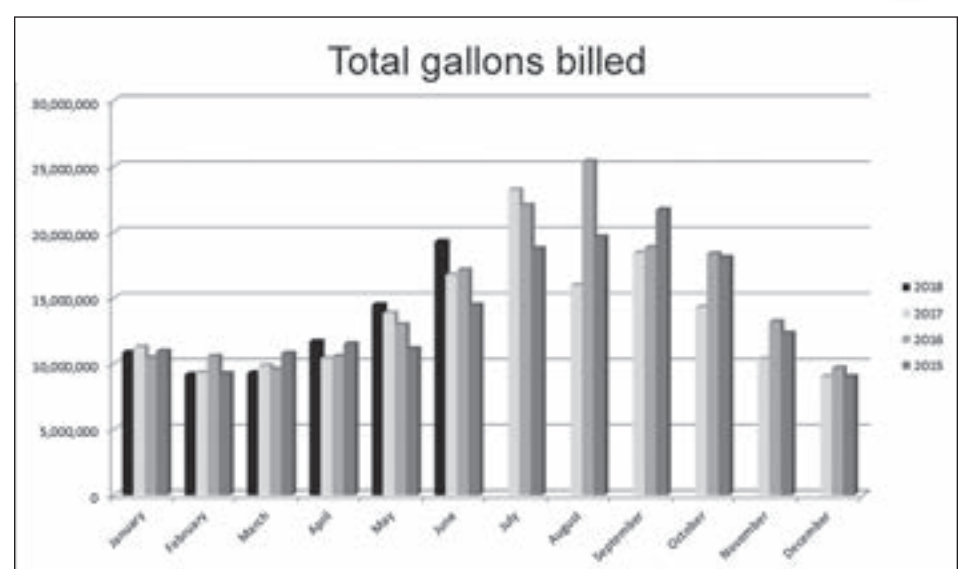
residential classifications for utilities billing, this is determined by the City Code. Chapter 13.16.010 Water rates established:

"C. The City Council may establish a rate structure establishing differing rates, including without limitation: 1. Different rates for different classes of customers, such as residential, commercial and industrial."

The city uses two classes of customers: residential and commercial. A single-family residence is classified as residential and is defined as:

Chapter 13.20.005 Definitions 15: "Single-family residence" means a structure maintained and used as a

“**Water usage was down from 2017 for January through April 2018.**”



single-dwelling unit designed for occupancy by one family, as in a private home, as opposed to a condominium, apartment building or PUD (planned unit development). Notwithstanding that a dwelling unit shares one or more walls with another dwelling unit, it shall be deemed a single-family residence if it has direct

access to a street or thoroughfare and does not share hot water equipment of any other essential facility in service with any other dwelling unit."

All other structures outside of this definition are classified as commercial. The city does not use El Paso

# Manitou Springs Fire Department



By John Forsett, fire chief

Want to talk about wildland fires? It seems nearly impossible to look at the news today without seeing something about a wildland fire happening somewhere.

The staff and volunteers of the city of Manitou Springs and your fire department are making huge efforts to improve our wildland urban interface environment and defensibility. Soon, we will roll out more information to the public that we believe will allow individuals and neighborhoods to recognize dangers and how we can collaborate to improve our environment.

In the meantime, please visit [www.manitouspringsgov.com/floodinfo](http://www.manitouspringsgov.com/floodinfo) for "Hazard Mitigation and Resiliency Information" and pay particular attention to the section titled "Wildfire Mitigation Guidance."

I was strolling throughout the station the other day and, as I moved from room to room, I found myself pausing at photos of the department's membership over the past years. As I stared at the faces of the men and women of the Manitou Springs Fire Department in these pictures, I was reminded of how many great volunteers and real community leaders this department has had.

In my more than 35 years serving

this department I, like many of you, have watched the ebb and flow of our community. We have seen some wonderful and not-so-wonderful changes.

Regarding fire service, change is an ever-evolving process. Today, there is more involvement from the science community, which studies fire behavior, building materials and construction methods, tactics and best practices and much, much more.

From these studies, the fire service continues to learn and develop methods, materials and equipment to make our environment safer for both our customers and our firefighters. I would guess that, after helping create the nation's first fire department in Philadelphia in 1736, Ben Franklin would barely recognize the volunteer fire service of today.

Our department has not been immune to change. I believe our department is among the leaders when it comes to understanding, accepting and adapting to new information provided to our industry today.

We've come a long way from just putting the "wet stuff on the red stuff."

Today, we train for and respond to structural and vehicle fires, hazardous materials incidents, high- and low-angle rescues, wildland fires and emergency medical incidents.



Photo by Rhonda Van Pelt

One of Manitou Springs Fire Department's trucks heads east on Manitou Avenue on Monday, July 16.

"All Hazards" is a term coined for what our fire service provides today. We do this with the help of professionals from within and elsewhere who provide top-notch training to our volunteers, a City Council and city leaders who support and recognize the need for a properly trained and equipped fire department and, mostly, the great men and women of the fire department.

But some things stay the same. As I look into the faces of the people in today's fire department, I see the same great volunteers and community leaders I saw in the pictures from the past. These people do far more for this

community than I think folks imagine.

These people put forth efforts that are tangible. They are humble and benevolent and put it on the line face-to-face with hours upon hours of training and service to their community.

They do it all while still maintaining careers, attending college, managing family schedules and carrying on with their lives. Thank goodness they have not changed.

I admire each one for their service and I am honored to represent and serve them, past and present.

# Manitou Springs Police Department



By Joe Ribeiro, police chief

Residents of El Paso and Teller counties are encouraged to register for the Emergency Notification System to receive alerts about emergencies that occur in their area. Public safety officials use the Emergency Notification System tool to notify the public about emergencies that pose a threat to their safety or property.

Visit [www.elpasoteller911.org](http://www.elpasoteller911.org) to register for alerts via phone call, text message or email. Residents without internet access can call 785-1971 to register. You can choose to receive alerts for up to five locations (work, home, school, etc.).

Registering an account allows you to receive alerts based on the address(es) you register. In addition to registering, you can download the Everbridge App, which is available in the Google Play and App Store.

The Everbridge App lets you receive alerts on your mobile device while you are on the go. If you travel into an active "incident zone" you will receive a push alert notification as well as a map of the area that was notified.

This year, the Emergency Notification System has been utilized for pre-evacuation notices, evacuation notices, missing persons and shelter-in-place notifications for law enforcement activity.

The Emergency Notification System is a separate system than the one used to send Amber Alerts and severe weather alerts. Do not assume that your information is already in the system. Registering is easy and it is free.

During an emergency, you should use as many forms of communication as possible to stay informed.

Stay tuned to news broadcasts, radio stations, social media websites, weather radios, etc. Do not put your safety at risk waiting for a phone call/notification to be told what to do.

If you feel you are in danger, you should take immediate action to get yourself to safety.

## FINANCE/from page 8

County's classification of structures when determining whether a structure is residential or commercial.

Stage 1 water restrictions went into effect May 1. You may wonder how this is affecting water usage compared to previous years. As the chart illustrates, water usage was down from 2017 for January through April 2018, but increased during the months of April through June.

Also, if you are experiencing hardship, as per Municipal Code section of 13.16.070, section D, "in cases of hardship, the Finance Department is

authorized to enter into repayment agreements and when such an agreement is in effect, water service may be continued."

This means if you have an exceptional high water bill due to a leak or can't make a month's payment, you can enter into an agreement with the city to take that payment and spread it out over a number of months on top of your regular water bill, so it's more manageable. Please call Dorris at 685-2579 for more information.

As always, at any time you can decide to start paying your water/sewer bill through [www.xpressbillpay.com](http://www.xpressbillpay.com), which also allows you to check your account balance online. In fact, you can sign up to receive your bill online and in the mail, or go paperless and just review your bill online.

Then you can pay online, come into the office to pay, drop off your payment in the drop box in front of City Hall (next to the Colorado Springs Utilities drop box) or set up an automatic bill pay using either an e-check or a credit card with Xpress Bill Pay.

And, yes, you still have the option of mailing your payment.

# Manitou Aquatic & Fitness Center



By Roy Chaney, aquatics director

In June, the reconstruction of the Schryver Park and pool parking lot began. This is a major project that will take 45-plus days and will result in more parking spaces, a bus drop-off, lighting and electrical car hook-ups. The old lot has served us well (since 1971) and has been patched up so many times it had to be replaced.

Parking has been moved temporarily to the park's grassy area and is working well to allow patrons access to the pool during this construction.

Once the new lot is completed, a new pedestrian bridge will be built to replace the bridge due to age and possible flood damage.

Now, the old bridge is blocked off to minimize the number of people crossing it at one time and has been determined to be safe when used in this way. The park's grass will be restored once all construction is completed.

In early May, the facility shut down for maintenance. The following projects were completed: final epoxy coating on locker room floors, new shower and hall mats, new paint on

indoor pool and adult hot tub perimeter, new concrete deck (for safety) and steps (for easier entry) for the adult hot tub, new kiddie pool door for better access, new adult hot tub circulation pump and indoor jet pump, and new edging for the multi-purpose room and around indoor pool. Other cleaning and smaller tasks were performed as well.

Our Star-Fish public swimming program has broken several records this year. Classes have reached all-time highs of more than 60 kids per session. Private swim lessons are also very popular for those that want one-on-one training.

Yoga and core classes are steady and maintaining a strong customer base. Classes are small with a more individualized touch.

Aqua-aerobics continues to be one of our most popular programs and class participation numbers have reached the mid-30s and low 40s. The Nova Synchronized swim team is now calling Manitou home and trains during the week. The team also recently offered a free demonstration/show that was amazing to watch.

The Colorado Torpedoes swim team is training for the long-course



Courtesy image

It doesn't matter what age you are: It's fun to splash in the Manitou Springs pool.

competitive season and preparing for some championship events this month.

The Aquatic Center offered several summer lifeguard training classes and had maximum attendance. Several new lifeguards have come to work for us or pools around the area.

No matter what your style of training or fun, you can find a perfect balance at the Manitou Pool & Fitness Center.

For more information: stop by 202 Manitou Ave., visit [www.manitou-pool.com](http://www.manitou-pool.com) or call 685-9735.

## Public Engagement



By Meghan Weiss, public engagement and event coordinator

I have had the privilege to work as the event coordinator for this wonderful community since August 2017 and added "public engagement" to my title in May 2018. Manitou Springs leaders feel it's vital to our community that we identify and engage interested and affected stakeholders in community issues, and I am excited to help facilitate this dialogue.

Public engagement is a process that brings people together to discuss common issues to achieve shared community goals and objectives. Engagement involves both listening and interaction with the end goal of generating mutual benefit among all parties. We intend to ensure that citizens, staff, and council work together to deliberate on issues and build a stronger community.

As part of this effort, we have contracted with CivicPlus to help us redesign our city website to ensure it is accessible, dynamic and informative. Please contact me at [mweiss@comsgov.com](mailto:mweiss@comsgov.com) or 492-2353 if you have ideas or would like to meet to discuss engagement. And yes, the new website will be accessible on your phone,

tablets and other mobile devices.

Manitou has had a busy first half of 2018 with new and annual events. The city aided the Chamber of Commerce with the events the first part of this year: the Great Fruitcake Toss, Carni-Ball, Carnivale, the Mumbo Jumbo Gumbo Cook-off, the Manitou Springs Colorado Wine Festival, Silent Disco, the Ice Cream Social & Pie Baking Contest and the Woodshed Red 4th of July concert.

We also had the Lantern Parade, Manitou Chooses Love, the Pikes Peak Open Chess Tournament, a Community Initiatives Open House, the Manitou Board Game Convention, a city-sponsored Beautification Day, the Bluegrass, Brews, & Brats fundraiser, the Garden of the Arts Festival and the Barr Trail Mountain Race.

We also have many ongoing summer events including Poetry and Pottery (noon-2 p.m. Wednesdays until Aug. 22 in the Bud Ford Pavilion at Soda Springs Park), the Manitou Community Market (3-7 p.m. Thursdays until Aug. 30 in the Bud Ford Pavilion and the same timeframe from Sept. 6-Oct. 11 in Memorial Park), the Library Lawn Concert Series (6-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays until Aug. 14 on the Library Lawn), and the



Courtesy image

The 4th of July Woodshed Red concert drew residents and visitors to Soda Springs Park.

Summer Concert Series (7-8:30 p.m. Mondays and 7-8 p.m. several Thursdays until Aug. 16 in the Bud Ford Pavilion).

And we're only halfway through the year! Upcoming events include the Pikes Peak Open Chess Tournament Aug. 11-12, the Pikes Peak Ascent and Marathon Aug. 18-19, the second Silent Disco on Aug. 25, the Commonwheel Artists Art Festival on Sept. 1-3, the Pikes Peak Challenge on Sept. 8, Clayfest on Sept. 22-23, the Manitou Springs Heritage Brew Festival on Sept. 29 and the Coffin Races on Oct. 27.

Some very exciting news about the Pikes Peak Marathon: It's been

named one of the Top 5 mountain-running events in the world and is now part of the International Golden Trail Run Series by Salomon ([www.goldentrailseries.com](http://www.goldentrailseries.com)).

As the Marathon will be on an international stage, the organizers are adding activities including a block party, street breakfast and sidewalk sale on Manitou Avenue on Sunday, Aug. 19.

For more information on all upcoming events, be sure to keep an eye on our social media sites: Facebook ([www.facebook.com/cityofmanitousprings/](http://www.facebook.com/cityofmanitousprings/)), Twitter (@manitougov) and NextDoor (City of Manitou Springs).